

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Executive



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 12, 2012

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Statement from County Executive David R. Craig Regarding a Proposed Settlement between the Harford County Board of Education and the Harford County Education Association

(Bel Air, MD) - - Harford County Executive David R. Craig issued the following statement regarding the proposed settlement between the Harford County Board of Education and the Harford County Education Association:

"I want to congratulate Dr. Leonard Wheeler, President of the Board of Education, Vice President Rick Grambo, all members of the Board of Education of Harford County and Dr. Robert Tomback, Superintendent of Schools for their tireless efforts in obtaining a tentative agreement between the Board and HCEA. The collective bargaining process has been a difficult one, but in the end, the Board found the funds within their budget to provide for a modest pay raise and longevity pay for those eligible teachers of Harford County Public Schools.

The collective bargaining process as established under Maryland law is a matter between the school system and their respective bargaining units. The County Executive is not involved in the collective bargaining process for teachers or other employees of the school system and therefore cannot be involved in this settlement.

The proposed 1% pay raise, plus Step and longevity pay will cost the Board of Education approximately \$10 million. Although our teachers undoubtedly deserve a fair pay raise, this proposal also comes with a cost – the loss of both administrative and teaching positions. I must also stress, that none of this raise will be paid for outside of the Board's FY 2013 budget. Thus, no additional funding was needed from the taxpayers of Harford County to support this negotiated pay raise for teachers and staff.

I felt confident throughout this budget process that the Board of Education would find the money within their allotted budget to provide for this pay raise for eligible teachers and staff.

(more)

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Since taking office as County Executive in 2005, I have consistently funded the Board of Education at unprecedented levels above the required Maintenance of Effort. In FY 2013, the Board's budget was increased by nearly \$1 million more than Maintenance of Effort, while the State of Maryland was reducing their level of funding to the county school system.

Hopefully the Board of Education and Harford County Education Association can move forward in a collaborative manner and put this issue behind them for the betterment of the education of our children and grandchildren”.

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“Preserving Harford’s past; promoting Harford’s future”